

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) A group according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.04$ .
6. (Previously Presented) A group according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.02$ .
7. (Previously Presented) A group according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the portion of said engagement piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.014$ .
8. (Previously Presented) A group according to Claim 32, wherein said means of regulation comprise one or more stop elements for limiting the deformation of a portion of the wall of said cartridge in proximity of said outlet opening.
9. (Original) A group according to Claim 8, wherein said one or more stop elements comprise one or more fins which support said piercing member.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A group according to Claim 8, wherein said one or more stop elements comprise at least one annular member having diameter greater than said outlet opening.
11. **(Original)** A group according to Claim 10, wherein said annular member has a surface portion tilted towards the base wall of said cartridge.
12. **(Original)** A group according to Claim 11, wherein said tilted surface portion has an inclination between  $0^{\circ}$  and  $45^{\circ}$  with respect to a horizontal plane supported on said annular member.
13. **(Original)** A group according to Claim 11, wherein said tilted surface portion has an inclination between  $15^{\circ}$  and  $35^{\circ}$  with respect to a horizontal plane supported on said annular member.
14. **(Original)** A group according to Claim 11, wherein said tilted surface portion has an inclination of  $30^{\circ}$  with respect to a horizontal plane supported on said annular member.
15. **(Previously Presented)** A group according to Claim 8, wherein said means of regulation of the deformation of the base wall are realized with a plastic material having visco-elastic deformation.
16. **(Cancelled)**
17. **(Cancelled)**
18. **(Cancelled)**
19. **(Cancelled)**

**20. (Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 33, wherein the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.04$ .

**21. (Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 33, wherein the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.02$ .

**22. (Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 33, wherein the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.014$ .

**23. (Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 33, wherein regulation of dispensing is carried out by means of one or more stop elements in order to limit the deformation of a portion of wall of said cartridge in proximity of said outlet opening during said phase of beverage dispensing.

**24. (Original)** A method according to Claim 23, wherein said one or more stop elements comprise one or more support fins of said piercing member.

**25. (Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 23, wherein said one or more stop elements comprise at least one annular member having diameter greater than said outlet opening.

**26. (Original)** A method according to Claim 25, wherein said annular member has a surface portion tilted towards the base wall of said cartridge.

**27. (Original)** A method according to Claim 26, wherein said tilted surface portion has an inclination between 0° and 45° with respect to a horizontal plane supported on said annular member.

**28. (Original)** A method according to Claim 26, wherein said tilted surface portion has an inclination between 15° and 35° with respect to a horizontal plane supported on said annular member.

**29. (Original)** A method according to Claim 26, wherein said tilted surface portion has an inclination of 30° with respect to a horizontal plane supported on said annular member.

**30. (Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 16, characterised by controlling said deformation by means of the use of plastic material with visco-elastic deformation in at least part of the base wall of said cartridge.

**31. (Previously Presented)** Disposable cartridge for the preparation of a beverage from a soluble product in a group for beverage preparation according to Claim 32.

**32. (Currently Amended)** A dispensing group for the preparation of a beverage from a soluble product of the type comprising a disposable cartridge containing the soluble product, said cartridge comprising at least one outlet for the delivery of a beverage comprised of said soluble product and a fluid, wherein said at least one outlet opening is defined by at least one breaking line present on a wall of said cartridge, said group further comprising a collecting device having a seat suitable to receive said disposable cartridge and wherein said collecting device comprises at least one piercing element having a substantially cylindrical engagement portion to pierce said cartridge in correspondence to said breaking line and to engage said outlet opening completely prior to dispensing a beverage, the dispensing groups further comprising a regulator arrangement

for the delivery of said beverage, the regulator arrangement comprising at least one delivery port that is positioned during a beverage dispensing step between the wall of said piercing element and the edge of said outlet opening and extends around the perimeter of the cylindrical engagement portion of said piercing element, wherein to obtain said at least one delivery port, the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening is  $1 \leq R \leq 1.067$ .

**33. (Currently Amended)** A method for the preparation of a beverage from a soluble product contained in a disposable cartridge, comprising lodging said cartridge in the seat of a colleting device having at least one piercing member in order to open an outlet opening from said cartridge, said opening being defined by at least one breaking line present on a wall of said cartridge and said wall being completely engaged by a substantially cylindrical engagement portion of said piercing member after said piercing member has formed said opening, providing entry of a fluid into said cartridge through an entry port of the cartridge in order to obtain dispensing of a beverage comprising said soluble product and said fluid, providing regulation for dispensing said beverage by means of at least one delivery port extending around the perimeter of the cylindrical engagement portion of said piercing element and being disposed between the wall of said piercing member and the edge of said outlet opening during the dispensing phase of said beverage, the ratio R between the diameter D2 of the engagement portion of said piercing member and the diameter D1 of said outlet opening being  $1 \leq R \leq 1.067$ .

**34. (Previously Presented)** A disposable cartridge for the preparation of a beverage from a soluble product in a group for beverage preparation according to the method of claim 33.